

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly replace the claims of record with the following full set of claims:

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) A transmitter designed for transmitting frames of primary digital data protected against errors to a receiver via a communication channel comprising:

means for generating the frames of primary digital data ~~and designed for transmitting said frames of primary digital data protected against errors to a receiver via a communication channel;~~ ~~characterized in that the protection method comprises:~~

attribution means for attributing a priority level to each of the frames of primary data, ~~and~~

protection means, of the FEC type, ~~against transmission errors~~ for adding redundancy data packets to the frames of primary digital data for which a protection is sought, the quantity of the redundancy data being a function of the level of priority of the primary frame under consideration and of the error rate of the communication channel, said protection means delivering said frames of protected data over the communication channel, and

[[a]] control means for preventing the transmission of certain frames of primary data, especially [[of]] those whose priority level is low, wherein the assignment of a level of priority to each of the frames of primary digital data is made ~~in two stages, first by means of~~ an identification of the type of data contained in each of the frames of primary digital data, and relating ~~subsequently by relating~~ said type of data to a priority level by using ~~means of~~ a correspondence table stored in a memory.

4. (Currently amended) A transmitter as claimed in claim 3, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said control means [[for]] ensuring that the data rate of the frames of protected primary digital data sent over the communication channel does not exceed the maximum passband

of said communication channel ~~by acting on said means for generating frames of primary digital data.~~

5. (Currently amended) A transmitter as claimed in claim 4, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said means for generating the frames of primary digital data deliver a single flow of primary data of which the data rate is controlled by said control means.

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently amended) A transmitter as claimed in claim 3, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said means for generating the frames of primary digital data deliver several synchronous primary data flows each having a different data rate, and said control means selecting from ~~these~~ the different flows those frames of primary data which are to be protected against transmission errors.

8. (Previously presented) A telephone device comprising a transmitter as claimed in claim 3.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) A method of transmitting data[[,]] to a receiver via a communication channel, comprising: ~~a step of generating~~
generating frames of primary digital data ~~for the purpose of transmitting~~
~~said frames of primary digital data protected against errors to a receiver via a~~
~~communication channel, characterized in that the method further comprises comprising~~
~~the steps of:~~

- ~~a step of~~ attributing a level of priority to each of the frames of primary digital data,

- ~~a protection step of the FEC type against transmission errors, adding~~ introducing FEC type packets of redundancy data to those frames of primary digital data for which a protection is envisaged, the quantity of the redundancy data being a function of the level of priority of the primary frame under consideration and of the error rate of the communication channel, and

~~_____said protection step~~ supplying said data frames protected to the communication channel, and

~~control step~~ preventing the transmission of certain frames of primary digital data, especially ~~[[of]]~~ those whose priority level is low,

wherein the assignment of a level of priority to each of the frames of primary digital data is made by ~~means of a first step of~~ identifying the type of data contained in each of the frames of primary digital data, and relating subsequently by ~~means of a step which relates~~ said type of data to a priority level.

12. (Currently amended) A method of transmitting data as claimed in claim 11, wherein ~~characterized in that said control step for ensuring preventing the transmission ensures~~ that the data rate of the frames of protected primary digital data sent over the communication channel does not exceed the maximum passband of said communication channel, ~~by acting on said means for generating frames of primary digital data.~~

13. (Currently amended) A method of transmitting data as claimed in claim 12, wherein ~~characterized in the said step of~~ generating said frames of primary digital data enables the delivery of a single flow of primary digital data ~~of which the data rate is controlled by said control means.~~

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Currently amended) A method of transmitting data as claimed in claim 11, wherein ~~characterized in that that said step of~~ generating said frames of primary digital data enables the delivery of several synchronous primary digital data flows each having a

different data rate, ~~said control step~~ and selecting from ~~[[these]]~~ the different flows those frames of primary digital data which are to be protected against transmission errors.

16. (Currently amended) A computer program product for a transmitter, ~~comprising~~
~~_____ means for generating frames of primary digital data for the transmission of~~
~~these primary digital data protected against transmission errors to a receiver via a~~
~~communication channel, said computer program comprising~~ a series of instructions in program code for carrying out the steps of the method as claimed in claims 9 ~~to 15~~ when said program is executed by a signal processor incorporated in said transmitter .

17. (New) A transmitter as claimed in claim 3, wherein the packets of redundancy data associated with the frames of primary digital data are more numerous in proportion as the priority level of the frames of primary digital data is higher and as the error rate of the channel is higher.

18. (New) A method of transmitting data as claimed in claim 11, wherein the packets of redundancy data associated with the frames of primary digital data are more numerous in proportion as the priority level of the frames of primary digital data is higher and as the error rate of the channel is higher.